

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01657 01 OF 02 021850Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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R 021750Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01657

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PAGE 02 LONDON 01657 01 OF 02 021850Z

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SANGUMBA

SUMMARY: UNITA FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE SANGUMBA DESCRIBES THE MILITARY SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND UNITA'S INTENTION TO CARRY ON A GUERRILLA WAR IF NECESSARY; HE CONVINCINGLY ARGUES THAT THE SOVIET UNION FACES ITS OWN VIET NAM IN ANGOLA, AND THAT A NEW AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IS ESSENTIAL NOW THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS WITHDRAWN. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITA FOREIGN SECRETARY JORGE SANGUMBA AND UNITA EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE TONY FERNANDEZ (UNITA CO-FOUNDER) TALKED WITH EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 1. SANGUMBA STARTED WITH A DESCRIPTION OF HIS MOVEMENT'S PRECARIOUS MILITARY SITUATION. HE SAID THAT UNITA IS HOLDING FIRM AT THE ELEVENTH PARALLEL AND MPLA CLAIMS OF MILITARY SUCCESS ARE EXAGGERATED. ALTHOUGH MORALE IS HIGH, UNITA FACES A MASSIVE, WELL-EQUIPPED CUBAN ARMY WHICH IT CAN NOT CONTINUE TO RESIST INDEFINITELY. SOUTH AFRICAN UNITS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "INEXPERIENCED BOY SCOUTS," HAD WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY LEAVING BEHIND NOT A SINGLE BULLET. UNITA NOW LACKS BASIC MILITARY SUPPLIES AND SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE CONVENTIONAL FIGHTING, SANGUMBA DECLARED, HIS COLLEAGUES WILL PURSUE THE STRUGGLE IN THE BUSH. "THE RUSSIANS WILL NEVER CONTROL ANGOLA MILITARILY," HE ASSERTED, "AND UNITA WILL NEVER GO INTO EXILE."

2. SAVIMBI'S PRESENT GOAL IS TO STABILIZE THE SOUTHERN FRONT, ACHIEVE A MILITARY STALEMATE, AND THEN SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION. UNITA CONTINUES TO HOPE FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT AND SAVIMBI WANTS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS AS SOON AS THE MILITARY SITUATION WILL PERMIT. SANGUMBA SAID THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CLEARLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS TRANSPIRING IN ANGOLA. IT IS NOT ANOTHER VIET NAM, HE SAID, OR IF IT IS ANYONE'S VIET NAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LONDON 01657 01 OF 02 021850Z

IT IS RUSSIA'S. IN ANGOLA, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN ON THE SIDE OF THE MAJORITY AND OF THE PEASANTRY, WHILE THE SOVIETS ARE BACKING AN UNREPRESENTATIVE, MINORITY, URBAN-BASED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. THE RUSSIAN-INSPIRED FIGHTING LAST SUMMER IN WHICH BOTH FNLA AND UNITA WERE

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01657 02 OF 02 021851Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01657

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LONDON 01657 02 OF 02 021851Z

EJECTED FROM LUANDA STARTED WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT NETO HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING IN A FREE ELECTION. MORE-OVER, NETO IS A LONG-TIME KREMLIN COMMUNIST, VERY MUCH A CONSCIOUS INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET IMPERIALISM; HE IS NOT AN AFRICAN NATIONALIST LIKE MACHEL TO WHOM IDEOLOGY IS LITTLE MORE THAN RHETORIC. IF NETO SUCCEEDS IN ANGOLA, SANGUMBA SAID SHAKING HIS HEAD, "THE RUSSIANS WILL HAVE A REAL FEAST."

3. SANGUMBA APPEALED FOR AMERICAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CARRY ON ULITA'S FIGHT. HIS ORGANIZATION UNDERSTANDS THE CONSTRAINTS OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS, HE SAID, AND IS NOT ASKING FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS. BUT UNITA IS DESPERATE FOR MONEY AND CAN ONLY LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES. AND THE REAL LEADERS OF AFRICA, THOSE WHO REPRESENT STABILITY ON THE CONTINENT AND SUSPECT THE MOTIVES OF SOVIET INTERVENTION, ALSO LOOK TO AMERICA FOR FIRMNESS IN THE FACE OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGE.

4. SANGUMBA THEN ASKED FOR A NEW AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE WHICH, NOW THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE OPERATIONAL AREA, WOULD REDIRECT AFRICAN AND WORLD ATTENTION TO THE EGREGIOUS SOVIET/CUBAN INCURSION ON THE CONTINENT. HE DOES NOT EXPECT EITHER THE SOVIETS OR THE CUBANS TO RESPOND IN LIKE FASHION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTURE -- IN FACT SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS HAVE CONTINUED TO FLOW INTO ANGOLA OVER THE LAST WEEK -- BUT HE BELIEVES IT IS IMPERATIVE TO NAIL MPLA FIRMLY TO ITS COMMUNIST CROSS.

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